

Regional Food Hub & Farm to Institution

Communities Putting Prevention to Work is a program of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency funded by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from March 19, 2010 to March 18, 2012. The goal of the grant is to reduce chronic disease through policy, environmental, and organizational changes that target three focus areas: healthy physical activity, healthy nutrition, and healthy school environments.

Focus Area: Healthy Nutrition

Background: Although San Diego County has the largest number of farms compared to other counties in the nation, it lacks one central food distribution center for growers to aggregate crops. Locally grown food is commonly shipped to a Los Angeles terminal 100 miles away, aggregated, and then sold – often back to San Diego buyers. As a result, residents have difficulty obtaining the freshest produce, local farmers suffer reduced income, and greenhouse gases are increased as a result of transportation.

Outcome:

- Improve access to local food and agricultural products by residents.
- Ease the procurement process of agricultural products for institutions within San Diego County.

Deliverables:

Regional Food Hub

- Conduct formative research to determine logistical requirements, and develop a business plan to establish a Regional Food Hub facility.
- Establish and operate a Regional Food Hub facility.

Implement Farm-to-Institution Program

- Assist local businesses and schools in establishing farm to institution programs.

Regional Food Hub Assets

- Map assets/resources contributing to San Diego County food distribution system capacity and identify areas of need.
- Develop a web-based information page to increase collaboration among local producers and distributors.

Contractor: University of California, San Diego

Subcontractors: Tierra Miguel Foundation and Farm

Contact: Jonathan Reinbold, jonathan.reinbold@tierramiguelfarm.org

